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PLAYSCHOOL CHRISTMAS

They may be few in number, but Jack and Jill Playschool students put on a crowd pleasing performance...Page 3

SNOW SHORTAGE

It took more than a shortage of snow to keep Elk Point 4-H Beef Club away from sledding fun.....Page 5

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Elk Point Review



Vol. 37 No. 52

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

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Merry and bright!

SANTA'S REINDEER-DRAWN SLEIGH, perched atop the family's minivan in Elvis Sibal's driveway, was the crowning glory for this brightly lit display that was the unanimous favourite for Elk Point and District Chamber of Commerce judges as they toured every street in town last Monday night in search of the winners in the 2017 Christmas Lighting and Decorating Contest, a tradition that has carried on for more than three decades.

More winners on Page 2.

SPERD school safety procedures revised to provide more details

GRANT DEME
Review Contributor

Division Safety Procedures have been revised and clarified to provide more detail for staff and students. The issue was discussed at the Dec. 13 regular St. Paul Education Regional Division board meeting.

A "Shelter in Place" can now be called when there is an environmental concern, such as a severe thunderstorm or a tornado on or around school grounds. If this is called, entrances and exits will be locked while an otherwise regular school day resumes. Students will not be able to leave the school until it is deemed safe.

A "Classroom Hold" will be used when medical situations arise. If a member of the staff or a student is having a medical emergency, a Class Hold will be called and all students and faculty will remain in their present classroom. This is an attempt to prevent perceived embarrassment and to allow emergency workers quicker access to the scene, if required, heard council.

Superintendent Glen Brodziak added that the div-

ision is looking into the use of cell phones during lockdowns. Presently, they request all lines of communication be shut down during a lockdown, but are now weighing the benefits to having some open lines of communication between classes and staff, if something like a fire were to break out during a lockdown, to advise others.

Inclement Weather

The Board has agreed to use The Weather Network as its only resource for weather updates. Using a consistent reference tool provides a division standard, as opposed to looking at multiple sources, it was noted.

The inclement weather policy states that if the wind chill reaches -40 degrees Celsius, then school buses will be cancelled for the day. The actual temperature does not have to be minus 40 degrees.

FSLW

It was reported that the County of St. Paul has recently committed \$30,000 to the Division Family School Liaison Worker program. These workers provide group counselling crisis management, case con-

sultation and initiating referrals to other agencies.

The cost of the program division-wide for 2017/18 is \$843,000, with some of the costs being picked up by a provincial grant and municipal partners, according to the SPERD Chair Heather Starosielski.

"Administration in our schools tells us the FSLW counseling program is imperative to the success of our students," said Starosielski in an email, after the meeting.

SPERD will be requesting further financial support from other municipalities.

Ashmont School Update

The new school being built in Ashmont is "progressing well," said Starosielski. The revised completion date is now June 2018, and it is projected that students will start classes in the new building in the fall of September 2018.

However, the project may not be complete until 2019. Outside work on the site, such as demolition of the old school and the creation of a new parking lot etcetera will be weather dependent.

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STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT - The Ginez home on Centennial Drive, which was last year's big winner, earned second place in the Chamber of Commerce Lighting and Decorating Contest.



NORTH POLE MAGIC, with a yard full of reindeer just waiting to be hitched to Santa's sleigh, was created by Jack and Leona Bretzer and placed third in the competition.

Town passes interim 2018 budgets

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point town council and finance manager Jennifer Blacklock spent two mid December evenings going over the drafts of the 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets, the 2018, 2019 and 2020 operating budgets, the five-year capital plan and 20-year equipment replacement budget.

By the end of the second evening, they had approved the Interim 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets, the Interim 2018, 2019 and 2020 Operating Budgets, the five-year capital plan and the 20-year equipment replacement plans for both the Public Works Department and the Elk Point Fire Department.

Having received word from the Elk Point/St. Paul Regional Water Commission that the town's cost for water will increase from \$2.02 per cubic metre to \$2.10 per cubic metre, effective Jan. 1, 2028, and cognizant of the need for

replacement of the town's aging water meters with electronic models, council agreed to offset the costs by approving utility rate increases.

Basic water, up to 14 cubic metres, will cost \$60 per month as of Jan. 1, instead of the previous \$50, however the charge for each extra cubic metre remains at \$4. Basic sewer service will increase by \$2 to \$17 per month, with garbage collection remaining at \$15 per month. A new charge of \$7 per month will be added to help defray the cost of the new water meters, with that sum going into a newly established water meter reserve to pay for the meters as they are replaced.

"We're finding the best way to make the needed changes," Mayor Lorne Young told last week's meeting of the Interagency Health and Wellness Committee, adding, "utilities need to pay their own way, and the new rates are a true reflection of that. We're going to fast-track replacement of the meters. It's an expensive process, but it's necessary, and the electronic meters will mean that no one has to come in your yard to read your meter."

The additional \$2 on sewer rates will help the town to defray the cost of replacing the cast iron water mains, which have resulted in numerous costly breaks in recent years. The first phase, in Circle Drive, was completed this year. "It was the worst, and now it's done," the mayor said. "We're going to do more this year."

So sorry!

Our apologies to contributor Melanie McRae, whose name was inadvertently left out of the Santas Anonymous coverage in last week's issue. We are sorry for the omission.



Guardian

With appreciation for your business we send you our warmest wishes for a *happy and prosperous New Year!*

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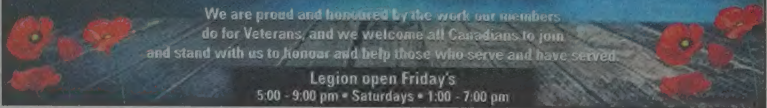
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Playschoolers entertain at concert

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff



SO EXCITED! Tammy Klatt and her Jack and Jill students were all ready to show off their singing voices to proud parents and grandparents.

"These children are so full of love and excitement," Jack and Jill Playschool instructor Tammy Klatt told parents, grandparents and siblings at last Tuesday's Christmas Concert. "There's always something new to learn," She added that the Playschool is very fortunate to have its volunteers, even though this is the smallest class in many years. She also expressed gratitude to her husband and daughters, who "help to fulfill my dream."

After opening the program with a pair of seasonal poems, she called her students to the stage, where they sang the ABC song, recited the numbers from one to 10, and joined in Christmas songs, including "Two Little Snowflakes," "Dear Old Santa," "Eight Little Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells," winding up their concert with "Merry Christmas to Everyone" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Klatt then presented each student with a cute handmade snowman statue and a special tree ornament, before everyone enjoyed a potluck lunch and other activities.

Interagency Health Committee welcomes new county representative

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Interagency Health and Wellness Committee welcomed County of St. Paul Division 2 Coun. Kevin Wirsta at their final meeting of 2017, which is also the first meeting since the October general election.

Elk Point Healthcare Centre facility manager Kristen Peleshok the much anticipated third doctor is coming, but "we still don't know when, Alberta Health Services (AHS) has no date at this time."

She had more positive news regarding the Healthcare Centre staff, however.

"We've got good Christmas coverage, so we're good. Our staffing is wonderful, everyone has had their vacations, we have extra staff on standby and a contingency plan is in place."

She also has a new administration support person who is "training in St. Paul right now."

Laboratory renovations are currently waiting on the arrival of some back-ordered building material, and "mid-January is a best guess" for opening.

The facility, with 12 acute care beds that normally are at 60 per cent occupancy, have been closer to 100 per cent the past three weeks, Peleshok said.

Peleshok also noted a concern with transportation for seniors going from AHS facilities to private clinics continues to be a concern, with no resolution in sight.

Levina Ewasiuk reported on behalf of Elk Point Seniors that the recent Christmas dinner turned out very well and that activities were now winding down until after New Year's. She "was glad to hear about the snow shovelling" program that recently started as a partnership between Elk Point Outreach School and the County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS, as it was much needed. She also gave Wirsta a brief rundown on MD of St. Paul Foundation issues, which include a proposal for covered parking for residents at Fort George Manor and the potential for turning two bachelor suites into a larger unit at Buckingham House.

MD Foundation representative Loris Kozina noted that at this time, only one of those bachelor suites is unoccupied,

with both Heritage Lodge and Fort George Manor both full, the lodge with a waiting list.

Terry Shankowski reported that the FCSS Seniors' Festival "went really well, there were lots of booths and it was very informative." During Elk Point's Christmas Extravaganza, "we lost count after 200 visitors came in for hot chocolate and cotton candy." She agreed with Ewasiuk that the show shovelling crew was a major plus, "and hopefully it will last," and said her office has been "so

busy with Santas Anonymous," taking registrations for the hampers.

Mayor Lorne Young represents the town on the committee and spoke on the budgets, utility rate increases and water meter replacements. He also said the town had hosted a supper meeting between the potential doctor, the town's two current doctors, Dr. Harmse and representatives of AHS, and also facilitated a tour of the town for the doctor. "We hope he will be joining us in the New Year."

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FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS. WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank You
to everyone for your valued patronage, support and friendship throughout the year. It has been a pleasure serving Elk Point and area with your real estate needs. May you have a wonderful Christmas Season and a successful New Year.

We look forward to serving you in 2018.



EDITORIAL

Looking back at challenging year

Elk Point has faced a lot of challenges this year, and a number of them came from a source over which we have zero control: the weather.

Take, for example, last March's hockey provincials - did we really need that massive dump of wet snow, just when we had teams coming from all across the province to compete? Definitely not, but it was certainly heartwarming to see how quickly the Town of Elk Point's Public Works crew sprung into action, clearing not only the main arteries, but also the A. G. Ross Arena parking lot so that team buses could get to where they were going safely.

And then there was the huge wind, rain and hail storm that swept across the area in mid-July, not only devastating many crops in the area, but snapping large trees like matchsticks and toppling them on streets and buildings. The storm had barely moved off when crews were already out with chainsaws and loaders, moving the debris so power crews could access downed lines and get the lights back on.

We also can't forget the deluge that not only derailed many August long weekend plans, but, with construction on the new roof not yet complete, also turned the lobby, kitchen and Elks team dressing room at A. G. Ross Arena into an indoor pool. It was impressive to see volunteers rally to help clean up the mess in time for the next weekend's Horticulture and Craft Show.

Once again, Elk Point was up for the challenges.

RECREATION CORNER

We need your ideas, input

recreation@elkpoint.ca
Review Contributor

Happy Holidays Elk Point! I wanted to take this issue to plan for next year. The Rec Department is working on some exciting activities, but we could always use your input.

Sometimes I hear people talking about an idea they have for an event, but don't know how to start it, like a family fun day or a dance. You can always email me recreation@elkpoint.ca with your suggestions and we can go from there. Sometimes to get things going you just need to know the right people. At the rec department we have a big list of the community groups and can help connect you with the right people.

Are there any sports or rec groups you would like to see in Elk Point? Whether it's for the kids or adults, we can help get that going as well. Some groups we've helped get off the ground include the pickleball club and the pole walking group. Call or text 78-0207-5898.

The Town of Elk Point, with the County and Town of St. Paul are working on a huge recreation study to help assess what the region has to offer and what we can do to expand and better services. Your feedback is welcomed at recreation@elkpoint.ca

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.



WAY BACK WHEN...

Christmas lights, First Night plans, pre-Christmas wins

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE ELK POINT REVIEW AND LAKELAND REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31 IN...

1987

Pauline Pankiw created a picture in pink and white to win first place in the residential division of the chamber of commerce lighting and decorating contest, with Andy Mikitka and Nick Melnyk's displays placing second and third, while Dave's Pizza placed first, Capitol Drugs second and the TD Bank third in the commercial division. The first-ever Christmas Extravaganza was a huge success, with Helene Madill, a holiday visitor from Sorrento, BC, winning the trip to Las Vegas.

1992

Elk Point Golf and Country Club was going full steam ahead with a project that would give them grass greens and an irrigation system to keep them that way, and had already constructed a 4.5 million gallon water reservoir. Joe and Jeanne Miller, Russ and Terry Hebblethwaite and Rich and Brenda Patroch placed first, second and third respectively in the Christmas Lighting and Decorating contest, with Dave's Pizza, Home Town Grocers and Capitol Drugs winning the commercial honours.

1997

F. G. Miller's Grade 12 students cooked up a huge Christmas brunch for their teachers, fellow students and special guests, an event which was previously spearheaded by the teachers. Warm weather forced cancellation of two planned events at the fourth annual First Night Festival, but events at seven venues were still on the agenda for the afternoon and evening of Dec. 31.

2002

Elk Point looked back at a busy and productive year, which wound up with big pre-Christmas wins for the Atom Avalanche, Girls Storm and Micro Novice Tornados. Elk Point Baptist Church announced that former Pastor John McGregor and his wife Roberta would be coming back for a week of meetings in January, aimed at healing families in turmoil.

2005

Sometimes Christmas shopping needs a little boost to get it off to a good start, and so it was in the second of Elk Point Elementary School's annual concerts, where a group of clipboard-toting researchers came on stage to ponder the problem of drawing more shoppers to the Buymore Shopping Mall.



APPRECIATION - Natalie Maas presented a special Timmy Quinney memorial bear to Guy Genereux of Victim Services, whose personnel "were here for us" in the time of tragedy when fellow student Quinney passed away in a vehicle crash in October.

2012

Elk Point Elementary School students shared the message of joy, hope and love at their second concert of the year, and learned the joy of sharing with others as the forest animals decide to let the townspeople enjoy the beauty of their favourite tree at their first concert. Heinsburg Community School supported the neighboring community of Frog Lake with a three week food drive, with the Kindergarten and Grade 1 students winning a pizza party for collecting the most food items.

Elk Point Review

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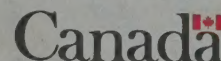
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No snow? No problem for 4-H Beef Club

All you need is some grassy hillsides and an ATV to do the uphill climb!

As you can see, there was not much snow, but we were able to find enough snow on some large rolling hills to do some tobogganing.

As it got dark outside, we all headed inside to play cards and games and have tons of laughs. Great food and friends and many laughs was a great way to start off the Christmas season.

Alyssa Jean
Elk Point 4-H Beef Club



Drive safely this New Year's

ALBERTA RCMP
Review Contributor

The holidays are here and for many of us this is a time to relax and celebrate with loved ones. The Alberta RCMP encourage Albertans to enjoy the season to the fullest, but also remind you of the additional risks associated with the holidays, particularly when it comes to traffic safety.

Winter weather conditions mixed with increased traffic volumes and holiday stress can create a danger for everyone on the road. Adding alcohol or drugs to the mix only increases that danger. Police reiterate the dangers that come with impaired driving and stress the importance of planning ahead for a safe ride home during the festivities.

"The best way to ensure your safety and that of others, is to avoid driving impaired. There are many safe options available – take public transit, call a cab, or arrange for a designated driver. If you plan to partake in the festivities, always make sure you know how you will be getting home safely at the end of the night and encourage others to do the same," says Superintendent Rick Gardner, Alberta Sheriffs.

Alberta RCMP, along with the Alberta Sheriffs,

were busy on the roads earlier this month in an effort to take impaired drivers off the roads. The Dec. 2, 2017 Checkstop Blitz was part of a large-scale operation which resulted in 31 impaired driving charges.

"It was important that we start patrolling early to remind Albertans that we will be actively looking for impaired drivers throughout the month," says S/Sgt. Don Murray, District Commander, Capital Region Integrated Traffic Unit. "The Checkstop served as a visible reminder to the public that it is never okay to drive impaired."

Police cannot do it alone. Keeping Alberta roads safe requires an effort from both police and road users alike. When we all take steps to prevent impaired driving, we have the ability to save lives and ensure a happier holiday season for everyone involved. Working together, we can make a positive impact on road safety this holiday season.

Janice Wirsta photos



Elk Point & District Ag. Society Annual General Meeting

7 pm, Monday, Jan. 8, 2018

Horizon Room, A.G. Ross Arena
Contact: Margaret 780-210-0518 or
margaretbayduza@gmail.com



We hope 2018 gives you plenty of reasons to celebrate!

Best wishes to you & yours!

ELK POINT
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'Tis the season!

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING and Servus Credit Union certainly did that, with branch manager Jennifer Dallaire presenting Elk Point and District Curling Society's Curtis Porcina. The treasurer and president of the club stated, "The junior kids are really excited to get coats and the league is getting some new chairs, thanks to Servus"



CHRISTMAS VISITORS - On Thursday, December 14, 2017, Elk Point Jack and Jill Playschool students and parents made their annual Christmas visit to the lodge. The students greeted everyone in person followed by singing some Christmas and classroom favourite songs. The students then handed out bells to the residents and together sang an old time favourite song "Jingle Bells" with music cheer! The students handed out a Christmas craft they had made for the residents and the students were given a sweet treats. Memories to be cherished! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone!

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- Ability to work independently and a part of a dynamic and integrated team, as well as motivate and recruit students for various events and projects.

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Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of
a dear wife and mother.

**JOANNE
ANDRISHAK**

Feb. 2, 1929 - Dec. 22, 1991

*As time goes by
without you,
And days turn into years,
Time holds a million
memories
And a thousand
silent tears.
To us you were so special,
What more is there to say,
Except to wish
with all our hearts,
That you were here today.*

Forever loved and
greatly missed by
Peter and Patricia.

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING
MEMORY OF
**ANN
CAPJACK**

DEC. 20, 1925 -
DEC. 29, 2016

One year has passed
since that sad day,
When the one
we loved was
called away.

God took you home,
it was his will.
But in our hearts
you liveth still.

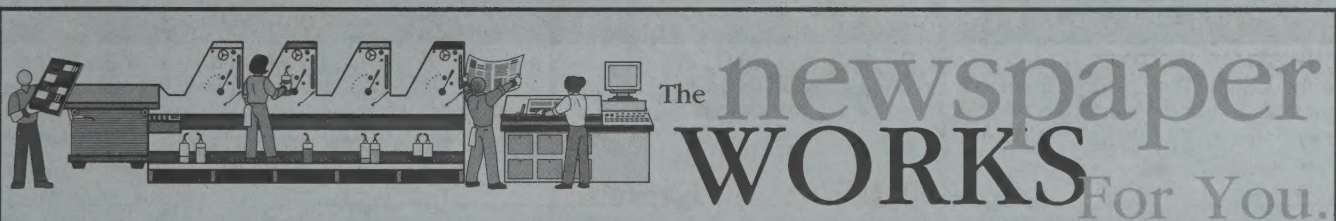
We love and miss you Mom
Lavina, Ellen,
Cheryl & Families

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING
MEMORY OF
PETE STAFFORD
Aug. 23, 1948-Dec 25, 2006



In loving memory of a dear
husband, father, grandfather
and great-grandfather.
*Your heart of gold stopped beating
Two smiling eyes at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove
He only takes the Best.
The tears in our eyes will
wipe away,
But the love in our hearts
Will forever stay.
Loved and missed so very
much by Karen and Family.*



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2018

Happy New Beginning!

It's a fresh start, and we hope it brings 365 days of happiness to you! Good friends and neighbors like you make us feel like celebrating, and we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

Happy New Year

St. Paul
Journal

4813-50 AVENUE
780-645-3342

happy new year

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To The New Year

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Happy NEW YEAR

All The Best In The New Year!

Elk Point REVIEW

WARMEST WISHES TO OUR READERS!
Vicki & Mel
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Happy NEW YEAR!

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10 ... 9 ... 8 ... 7 ... 6 ... 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1 ...

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As we count down to the final moment, we fondly recall all the good times we've had seeing you, and wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Your Friends from the
Elk Point B.P.O.E
Elks Lodge # 460

Happy NEW YEAR

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Happy NEW YEAR

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Bumper to Bumper
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celebrate

2018

happy new year!

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